

20th August 1925]

A.—Sahib Mehrban-i-dostan Sri Ramachandra Mardaraja Deo, Zamindar of Kallikota, represents the backward tracts in the Legislative Council.

Rao Bahadur O. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“ May I know the reasons which induced the Government to nominate him and his qualifications to represent the backward tracts ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ On the ground apparently that he possesses properties in the backward tracts and presumably knows the conditions of those properties and the tract round about those properties.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“ Are the Government not aware of the fact that he does not own properties in the backward tracts ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I was not aware.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“ Has the Government taken care to inquire before his nomination whether he owns properties in the Agency tracts ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I take it that the hon. the Leader of the Opposition speaking from his place has given this information. We shall seek to verify this information ; but nothing can be done just now ; we shall keep this in mind for guidance. It is obvious we cannot henceforth act on a *prima facie* impression.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—“ The hon. Member told us that he was under the impression that the hon. Member had properties in the backward tracts. How did he get the impression ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ Probably very wrongly, Sir, but I got it.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHA RAJU:—“ It may be a fact that a portion of his zamindari is known as agency, but it is a fact it is not part of the scheduled districts.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ I have been reminded of that more than once and I shall keep that in mind.”

The RAJA OF RAMNAD:—“ May I ask the Leader of the House whether persons in those tracts should have property to be represented in this House ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“ Not necessarily, Sir.”

Police.

Alleged finding of a dead body of a Badaga boy in a tank in Wellington Barracks.

* 176 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the dead body of a poor Badaga boy named Hiria, son of Bellie of Jagamala village, employed in the general section of the Cordite Factory at Aruvankadu was found in a tank in Wellington Barracks recently ;

[20th August 1925]

(b) whether it is a fact that the investigation by the Police showed that the boy did not commit suicide but was murdered ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the investigation by the Police revealed some clues to the identity of the person believed to have murdered the boy ;

(d) whether it is a fact that the Police in spite of such clues did not, at a later stage, pursue the investigation vigorously ; and

(e) whether any police officers of a higher rank than the local police were or are being deputed to trace out the culprit and bring him to justice ?

A.—(a) The dead body of the Badaga was found floating in the Wellington lake on 19th November 1924.

(b) No.

(c) & (d) Do not arise.

(e) No.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“With regard to clauses (b), (c) and (d), is it a fact that the police in the preliminary investigation wanted to include a clerk in the factory as being concerned in the matter and is it a fact that the Badaga boy was working in the clerk's house after the factory hours ?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“I am afraid, Sir, I do not know the details of investigation by the police. If the hon. Member evinces curiosity in the matter, I will inquire.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“It is not a question of curiosity ; it is a serious matter of life and death although the dead boy was only a poor Badaga boy. The boy was working in the Aruvankadu Factory and after the factory hours he was working in a clerk's house.”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“The State does not make a difference between Badaga boys and other boys.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“I am glad to hear it. The police went on to investigate the matter but afterwards they seemed to have dropped it ; there has been some sort of scandal. I hope the hon. the Law Member will now at least inquire into the matter.”

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—“May I know what was the finding recorded on the death of this Badaga boy ?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“With regard to the question that emanated from the hon. Member from North Arcot, I wish to remind him that suspicion had first alighted on a particular individual. Necessary evidence might not have been secured. As to the question put by the hon. Member from Chittoor (Mr. C. R. Reddi), the finding was that it was not possible to say whether he committed suicide or was murdered. At all events, the police were not able to trace any culprits.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“When the body was found, if it was a murder there might have been marks of violence ; that would be evidence that the man did not commit suicide. The information that I got at the time I put the question was—non-officials are at a great disadvantage because the records are not open to them—that it was not a case of suicide and therefore the police were on the track to find out the man or men.”

20th August 1925]

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I am perfectly willing to take it from the hon. Member there were marks of violence on the drowned boy ; presumably what has happened is something more than the mere act of drowning oneself. From that point of view and having regard to the allegations that have been made, further inquiries will be made.”

Punitive police at Gooty.

* 177 Q.—Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the faction between two persons Kona Timma Reddi of Gooty and K. Chinmarappa Reddi of Peddavadagu is one which extends to Gooty and 26 other villages in Anantapur district ;
- (b) whether the faction exists among the Reddi community alone ;
- (c) if so, the necessity for asking other communities to bear the cost of the special police ;
- (d) how many police stations there are in the faction-affected area ; and
- (e) whether the Government considered the question of opening up one or two new police stations to relieve the situation ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 396, Judicial, dated 15th July 1925, which has been placed on Editors' Table.

(d) Till 31st May 1925 the villages in which partisans of the two factions reside included portions of the jurisdictions of three police stations, but there was a police station in only one of those villages.

(e) Yes. A new police station was opened at Teliki on 1st June 1925.

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clause (e), Sir, may I know whether the new police station referred to in the answer is a station for the special police ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Yes.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ With regard to clause (d), may I know the name of the village in which the police station is situated ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I cannot say off-hand, Sir.”

The hon. the RAJA OF RAMNAD :—“ May I ask whether the levy of the punitive tax was confined to the Reddi community and not to the other communities ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It is not confined to any community ; it extends to everybody who has taken an active part in the factions.”

Mr. A. CHIDAMBARA NADAR :—“ It refers only to those people in the village who have taken part in the faction. Have the Government made any efforts to find out these people ? ”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ Under section 15 of the Act of 1861, the duty is, in the first place, cast on the District Magistrate who will send to Government lists of those who have taken prominent part in the faction. The Government will then apply its mind to the question and pass orders.”